

LIOPELMATINA MIVART, 1869 (AMPHIBIA, SALIENTIA):
PROPOSED EMENDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS TO
LEIOPELMATIDAE. Z.N.(S.) 1936

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission to place the generic name *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology. The relevant facts are as follows:

2. Fitzinger (1861 : 218) gave the name *Leiopelma hochstetteri* to some specimens of the New Zealand native frog which had been collected by Hochstetter on the Coromandel peninsula. Günther (1868 : 478), however, used the emended spelling *Liopelma* and the New Zealand native frogs were in general referred to under this name by European, American and New Zealand workers during the following 70 odd years.

3. Turbott (1942 : 247) and later Myers and Carvalho (1945 : 17, footnote 5) drew attention to this spelling error emphasizing the fact that Fitzinger's (1861) incorrect transliteration should be retained. The usage of the spelling *Leiopelma* by N. G. and E. M. Stephenson in their series of studies extending through the 1950's and 1960's has no doubt been responsible for the almost universal usage of this spelling in recent years. Accordingly, when the generic name *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861, is placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, *Liopelma* Günther, 1868, should be placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

4. Each of the generic names mentioned above has been made the basis of a family-group name. Mivart (1869 : 291) erected the taxon LIOPELMATINA, which he placed in the family BOMBINATORIDAE. Art. 34(a) permits revision of Mivart's spelling to LIOPELMATIDAE. However, the family group name LIOPELMATIDAE Mivart (1869) is based on Günther's (1868) spelling emendation. Art. 33(a)(ii) makes it clear that *Liopelma* Günther, 1868, is an unjustified emendation and therefore is a junior objective synonym of *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861. Art. 40 states that a family-group based upon a junior objective synonym is not to be changed unless an alternate name has won general acceptance.

5. Alternate family names include, in chronological order, the (1) ASCAPHIDAE Fejérváry (1923 : 178, type-genus *Ascaphus* Stejneger (1899 : 899), a monotypic genus, containing only *A. truei* Stejneger); (2) LIOPELMIDAE Noble (1924 : 9), proposed as new but actually an erroneous spelling variant of LIOPELMATIDAE Mivart; (3) LIOPELMIDAE Turbott (1942 : 247); and (4) LIOPELMATIDAE Stephenson (1951 : 18). The LIPELMIDAE Romer (1933 : 437) is an erroneous subsequent spelling without nomenclatural status. Nos. 3 and 4 are nomenclatural equivalents, the latter being a justified emendation of Turbott's name. It is true, apparently, that the name ASCAPHIDAE has been used more frequently than any other name over the past 35 years; it has been used regularly

in the *Zoological Record* during that time (with LIOPELMIDAE, 1959–1963), and in 16 of 48 other works we have sampled. However, in the same period LIOPELMIDAE had 10 usages, LIOPELMIDAE 11, LIOPELMATIDAE 2, and LIOPELMATIDAE 9.

6. Lacking general acceptance of an alternate name for the LIOPELMATIDAE, Mivart's name should be retained. However, it is undesirable that the family name not reflect the correct original spelling of the generic name. We here petition rendition of the name LIOPELMATIDAE, retaining Mivart's date (1869) and authorship.

7. Recently, some doubts have been raised concerning the phylogenetic relationships between *Ascaphus* and *Leiopelma*. Kuhn (1967 : 14) notes the following: "Ascaphidae . . . ; meist als synonym für Leiopelmatidae aufgefasst, neuerdings aber als selbständige Familie anerkannt." Although the majority of workers place *Ascaphus* and *Leiopelma* in the same family, until such time as these two genera can be convincingly shown to warrant separate family-group names it seems desirable to stabilize the present nomenclatural instability and place the family-group name LIOPELMATIDAE on the Official List for the reasons given above. Also for these reasons, the name ASCAPHIDAE should not be dealt with officially at the present time.

8. Accordingly we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) through use of its plenary powers to emend LIOPELMATINA Mivart, 1869, to LIOPELMATIDAE Mivart, 1869;
- (2) to place the undermentioned generic name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology: *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861 (gender : feminine) (type-species, by monotypy, *Leiopelma hochstetteri* Fitzinger, 1861);
- (3) to place the undermentioned generic name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology: *Liopelma* Günther, 1868 (an unjustified emendation of *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861);
- (4) to place the undermentioned family-group name on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology: LIOPELMATIDAE Mivart, 1869 (type-genus *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861);
- (5) to place the undermentioned family-group names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) LIOPELMATIDAE Mivart, 1869 (type-genus *Liopelma* Günther, 1868) (Ruled under the plenary powers to be an incorrect original spelling for LIOPELMATIDAE);
 - (b) LIOPELMIDAE Noble, 1924 (type-genus *Liopelma* Günther, 1868) (an incorrect spelling for LIOPELMATIDAE);
 - (c) LIOPELMIDAE Turbott, 1942 (type-genus *Leiopelma* Fitzinger, 1861) (an incorrect spelling for LIOPELMATIDAE).

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